

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No claim amendments are presented herein.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method of processing a fluid, comprising:

atomizing said fluid in a supercritical fluid medium to dissolve at least one component in the fluid to be processed;

applying thermal energy to said fluid;

allowing undissolved components to settle; and

separating said dissolved components from said supercritical fluid.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, wherein said atomization is accomplished by dynamic atomization.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said method additionally comprises the step of utilizing jet spray orifices during said atomization step.
4. **(Cancelled)**
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein said method additionally comprises the step of adding sonic energy during said atomization step.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy is applied after atomizing said fluid in the supercritical fluid.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the thermal energy is applied to the fluid to be processed before atomizing said fluid in the supercritical fluid.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the supercritical fluid is selected from a group consisting of CO₂, N₂O, NH₃, C H₄, C₂ H₆, C₃ H₈, C₄ H₁₀, C₅ H₁₂, SF₆, Xe, CCl₂F₂, and H₂O.

9. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising the step of adding a modifier to enhance the solubility of the supercritical fluids.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, additional comprising the step of recycling said supercritical fluid.

11. **(Withdrawn)**

12. **(Withdrawn)**

13. **(Withdrawn)**

14. **(Withdrawn)**

15. **(Withdrawn)**

16. **(Withdrawn)**

17. **(Withdrawn)**

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18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

24. (Withdrawn)

25. (Withdrawn)

26. (Withdrawn)